

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CU-04 HA-05 COME-00 ACDA-12 IO-13
/082 W

-----042196 181240Z /11/42

O P 171600Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6795
DIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 215
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 796

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 796 VICE 976)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, CSCE, NATO
SUBJECT: CSCE: SOVIET MANEUVER NOTIFICATION AND OBSERVER INVATION

1. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJOR
TROOP EXERCISE SET FOR FEBRUARY 6-10 AND INVITATION FOR
OBSERVERS. TEXTS WERE PREVIOUSLY SENT ERRONEOUSLY IN DIA
CHANNELS.

2. TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT: QUOTE. THE ADMINISTRATION
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(DIRECTORATE) OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESENTS ITS HIGH
ESTEEM TO THE STAFF OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE AND ON
THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE USSR
HAS THE HONOR TO FORWARD THE NOTIFICATION OF A
MILITARY EXERCISE. DURING THE PERIOD FROM 6 TO 10
FEBRUARY 1978 IN THE AREA OF MINSK, ORSHA AND POLOTSK
IT IS PLANNED TO CONDUCT AN EXERCISE BY THE FORCES

OF THE BELO RUSSIAN MILITARY DISTRICT UNDER THE DESIGNATION "BEREZINA" WITH THE AIM OF WORKING OUT QUESTION OF COOPERATION OF VARIOUS BRANCHES OF SERVICE. THE EXERCISE WILL INCLUDE GROUND TROOPS JOINTLY WITH UNITS AND ELEMENTS OF THE AIR FORCE. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE TROOPS EXERCISE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 25,000 INDIVIDUALS. THE ADMINISTRATION (DIRECTORATE) FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE USSR AVAILS ITSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESUME THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE. END TEXT.

3. TEXT OF INVITATION: QUOTE. THE ADMINISTRATION (DIRECTORATE) FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE USSR PRESENTS ITS HIGH ESTEEM TO YOU AND ASKS TO TRANSMIT TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF YOUR COUNTRY THE FOLLOWING TEXT. "THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE USSR, REFERRING TO THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, IS FORWARDING ITS INVITATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN TO SEND TWO OBSERVERS TO THE MANEUVERS OF THE TROOPS OF THE BELO RUSSIAN MILITARY DISTRICT TO BE HELD IN THE AREA OF MINSK, ORSHA, POLOTSK. IN THE MANEUVERS UNDER THE CODE NAME "BEREZINA" PARTICIPATION OF UNITS CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SUBUNITS OF THE ARMY AND OF THE AIR FORCE IS PLANNED. THE TIME OF THE STAY AT THE MANEUVERS IS FEBRUARY 6 THROUGH FEBRUARY 9, 1978. THE ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IS ON FEBRUARY 5 OF THIS YEAR. IF THE INVITATION IS ACCEPTED, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE USSR REQUESTS YOU PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATION (DIRECTORATE) FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS BEFORE JANUARY 25, 1978 WITH THE RANK, NAME, AND POSITIONS OF THE OBSERVERS SPECIFIED, AS WELL AS THE TIME OF THEIR ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW AND THE FLIGHT (TRAIN) NUMBER. THE ADMINISTRATION (DIRECTORATE) FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE USSR AVAILS ITSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESUME THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION." END QUOTE. END TEXT.

4. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE TO THE DATTS OF ALL CSCE PARTICIPANTS. THE INVITATION TO SEND TWO OBSERVERS WAS ISSUED TO ELEVEN COUNTRIES: U.S., UK, FRANCE, FRG, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND, GDR, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

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5. A WORD ABOUT ATMOSPHERICS. ALTHOUGH THE ATTACHES
PRESENT AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ON 16 JAN. REPRESENTED ALL CSCE COUNTRIES, MOST OF WHOM ARE SENIOR
TO USDATT BGEN LARKIN, SOVIET GEN. KHOMENKO VERY
POINTEDLY AND CAREFULLY SEATED LARKIN NEXT TO HIM,
AND THROUGHOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE INVITATION
AFTERWARDS DIRECTED HIS REMARKS TOWARD HIM. THE
U.S. WAS THE FIRST NAMED OF THE INVITEES BOTH WHEN
ALL WERE PRESENT, AND LATER WHEN ONLY INVITEES WERE
PRESENT. BGEN LARKIN HAS NO DOUBT THAT THE U.S.
WAS INTENDED TO BE THE PRINCIPAL RECIPIENT OF THIS
ACT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT.
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6. AT REGULAR QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL MEETING
16 JAN. (FRG, UK, FR AND US), THE UK AMBASSADOR
SAID HE WOULD BE RECOMMENDING THAT HIS DATT AND
ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM LONDON BE DESIGNATED TO
ATTEND. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE FRENCH HAD
FOLLOWED THIS COURSE LAST SUMMER (CARPATHIA
EXERCISE) AND IT HAD PROVEN USEFUL. FRG AMBASSADOR
AGREED IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, AND HE WOULD RECOMMEND
IT TO HIS GOVERNMENT. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT
THIS EARLY DATE WHAT THE CAPITALS WILL BE DECIDING.
EMBASSY ALSO ASSUMES THAT THERE WILL BE SOME
COORDINATION OF THIS ISSUE IN NATO.

7. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST INVITATION TO THE
U.S. TO ATTEND A WARSAW PACT COUNTRY EXERCISE AND
THE FIRST TIME THE SOVIETS HAVE INVITED ALL THE
MAJOR NATO STATES TO SEND OBSERVERS. THIS REFLECTS
A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY ON INVITATIONS,
AS DOES THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE INVITEES ARE NOT
"NEIGHBORING" STATES TO THE LOCATION OF THE
MANEUVER AND THAT MOST ARE NON-WP COUNTRIES.

8. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DATT BE ONE OF TWO U.S.
OBSERVERS DESIGNATED TO ATTEND THE EXERCISE. WE
ALSO RECOMMEND THAT SECOND BE A SENIOR OFFICER FROM
EUROPE OR WASHINGTON.
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